

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /081 W

----- 015886

R 260905Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5827

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USUN NEW YORK 342

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3556

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SN

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY: KOREAN ITEM AT THE NON-ALIGNED
SUMMIT AND UNGA

REFS: A) SINGAPORE 3509; B) STATE 178439

1. ROK AMBASSADOR LEE KEW SUNG CONVENED LUNCHEON MEETING
OF CORE GROUP MEMBERS IN SINGAPORE JULY 26 TO DISCUSS KOREAN
ITEM AT NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT AND UNGA IN ADDITION TO MYSELF,
PRESENT WERE DUTCH AND BELGIAN AMBASSADORS; UK, NEW ZEALAND,
AND CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONERS; AND FRG COUNSELLOR.
AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS ABSENT.

2. AMBASSADOR LEE REPORTED THAT HE HAD CALLED ON FOREIGN
MINISTRY PERMSEC CHIA CHEONG FOOK ON JULY 24 TO ASK THAT
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EITHER FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM OR PRIME MINISTER

LEE KUAN YEW INCLUDE REMARKS FAVORABLE TO ROK POSITION IN ADDRESSES TO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. CHIA RESPONDED BY DEFINING SINGAPORE POSITION AS BEING THAT NO SETTLEMENT OF KOREAN QUESTION WAS POSSIBLE WITHOUT ROK PARTICIPATION, AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DISPUTE. HOWEVER, HE DODGED ISSUED OF WHETHER FOREIGN MINISTER OR PRIME MINISTER WOULD REFER TO KOREAN ITEM AT COLOMBO, AND SAID MERELY THAT "HIGHEST LEVEL" OF SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE INFORMED OF AMBASSADOR LEE'S REQUEST.

3. AMBASSADOR LEE WENT ON TO STATE THAT HE HAD HEARD 25 OR 26 COUNTRIES WERE NOW READY AS A RESULT OF WORLD-WIDE EFFORTS OF THE CORE GROUP TO SAY SOMETHING AT COLOMBO SUPPORTIVE OF THE ROK POSITION. HE HAD ALSO HEARD THAT NORTH KOREA WAS NOT HAPPY ABOUT THE WORDING OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON KOREA PREPARED AT THE NACC MEETING AT ALGIERS. THE NORTH KOREANS HAD HELD OUT FOR A "MORE AGGRESSIVE" DRAFT AT THE NACC MEETING, AND THEY WERE NOW THINKING OF PRESENTING A NEW AND MUCH STRONGER RESOLUTION OF THEIR OWN AT COLOMBO WHICH WOULD BE BACKED BY THE EXTREME RADICAL COUNTRIES. AMBASSADOR LEE SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION WOULD BE. (COMMENT: IT MAY BE SPECULATED THAT THE NORTH KOREANS WOULD WANT STRONGER LANGUAGE REGARDING A PEACE AGREEMENT TO REPLACE THE MILITARY ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, SINCE THE PRESENT WORDING CALLS ONLY FOR THE "REPLACEMENT OF THE KOREAN MILITARY ARMISTICE AGREEMENT BY A DURABLE PEACE AGREEMENT" WITHOUT AT THE SAME TIME EXCLUDING ROK PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROCESS.)

4. AMBASSADOR LEE FURTHER ADDED THAT PARTICIPANTS IN THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN MANILA HAD ENGAGED IN A DISCUSSION OF THE KOREAN ITEM AT AN INFORMAL SESSION. THAI FOREIGN MINISTER PHICHAH HAD BROUGHT MATTER UP, SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE KOREAN QUESTION TO BE PRESENTED AT THE UNGA IN SUCH A WAY AS TO AVOID A CONTROVERSIAL DEBATE YEAR AFTER YEAR. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD AGREED ON THIS, BUT WERE UNABLE TO DETERMINE

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JUST HOW CONTROVERSY COULD BE AVOIDED IN LIGHT OF THE HARD-LINE NORTH KOREAN POSITION. ALL THAT COULD BE DECIDED WAS TO WATCH NORTH KOREAN MANEUVERS, THE REACTIONS OF FRIENDLY NATIONS, AND MAKE PLANS ACCORDINGLY.

5. AMBASSADOR LEE SAID HE HAD HEARD FROM THE YUGOSLAV CHARGE IN SINGAPORE THAT YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER MILOŠ MIĆIĆ HAD TOLD KIM II SONG RECENTLY THAT NORTH KOREA

SHOULD NOT IGNORE THE EXISTENCE OF THE ROK, WHICH HAD A GREATER POPULATION AND MORE TERRITORY THAN NORTH KOREA. THE YUGOSLAVS ALSO SAID THE SAME THING TO THE NORTH KOREAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LAST APRIL.

6. UK HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER TRIP REMARKED THAT HIS UK COLLEAGUE IN KUALA LUMPUR BELIEVED THAT THE MALAYSIANS WANTED TO AVOID CONTROVERSY OVER THE KOREAN ITEM. THE MALAYSIANS REPORTEDLY HAD A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ROK, AND WOULD TAKE STEPS AMONG THE ASEAN NATIONS TO GAIN THEIR SUPPORT AS WELL.

7. BOTH AMBASSADOR LEE AND NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER ROGER PEREN MENTIONED THAT ON THE BASIS OF THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH SINGAPORE OFFICIALS (IN AMBASSADOR LEE'S CASE, WITH CHIA CHEONG FOOK) THERE IS STILL A POSSIBILITY PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW MAY NOT GO TO COLOMBO. CHIA HAD SAID THAT WHILE DECISION FOR PM LEE TO ATTEND HAD BEEN MADE, THERE WERE ONE OR TWO DETAILS OF HIS VISIT WHICH STILL REQUIRED "CLARIFICATION." (COMMENT: I SUSPECT THAT IF SINGAPOREANS DETERMINE THAT COLOMBO SUMMIT LOOKS TO BE TURNING INTO A REAL DONNYBROOK, THEY WILL TRY TO FIND SOME REASON TO KEEP PM LEE FROM STEPPING INTO THE MIDDLE OF IT.)

8. TO CONCLUDE THE MEETING, AMBASSADOR LEE ASKED FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE OTHERS PRESENT ON BEHALF OF THE ROK AT THE COLOMBO MEETING AND THE UNGA. HE NOTED HE HAD JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT US SUPPORT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING VIA A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO LEADERS OF 10 COUNTRIES INCLUDING SINGAPORE, AND SINCE HE HAD ALREADY MADE THIS INFORMATION PUBLIC I FELT OBLIGED TO CONFIRM IT.

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